

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
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Bayan

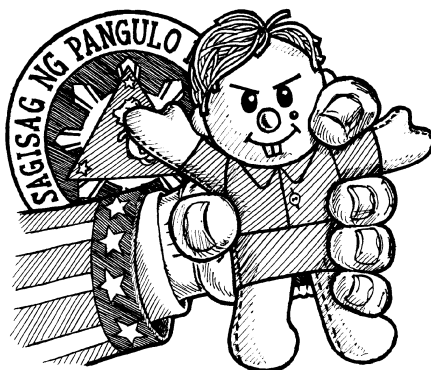
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Expose and resist the pro-imperialist and antipeople policies and measures of the reactionary US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime

The reactionary character of the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime has further been exposed with the series of pro-imperialist and antipeople measures it has implemented in the past two months. Among the measures taken by the regime at the behest of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank are the following:



electricity rates. The 30-centavo decrease in charges per kilowatt-hour mandated by the law is a minor concession that will quickly come to naught as soon as full deregulation sets in.

(2) Allowing renewed oil price increases. The oil cartel raised petroleum prices on May 25; meanwhile, another round of oil price increases looms. In declaring that “I don’t like begging from the (oil) multinationals”, Macapagal-Arroyo

directly supported the Oil Deregulation Law that is behind the never-ending oil price hikes.

(3) Allowing Maynilad Water Services to raise its fees. Consent was granted to give Maynilad a chance to recover from heavy debts and raise profits. Due to the intensity of people’s protests, Malacañang has made it appear that it has revoked its June 9 Memorandum of Cooperation allowing Maynilad to abruptly hike its fees by P5 per cubic meter. Malacañang will still allow Maynilad to

(1) Enactment on June 8 of the Power Reform Act. The new law calls for the deregulation of electrical services and the privatization of the National Power Corp. (Napocor). It puts electrical services under the control of foreign private and comprador companies. The Napocor’s gargantuan debt and losses as well as the big profits raked in by private electric companies will be shouldered by the people in the form of additional taxes and higher

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raise its water fees, albeit gradually.

(4) Privatization of the administration of Social Security System (SSS) funds. As a result, funds painstakingly deposited by workers and employees for their security and welfare will serve as a milking cow for the big foreign and local capitalist vultures who will be administering the fund.

Macapagal-Arroyo put off implementing these measures during the elections to prevent her candidates from being repudiated by the people. Immediately after the polls, however, Malacañang enforced these one after another.

These measures indicate Macapagal-Arroyo's assiduous advocacy of the interests of big foreign capitalists and IMF-WB diktats. All things considered, these are but a continuation of the antipeople economic programs of the US-Estrada regime and all other previous regimes. They are in accordance with the imperialist policies of liberalization, deregulation and privatization that the IMF-WB imposes on neocolonies like the Philippines. The IMF-WB has used as bait almost a billion dollars worth of suspended loans from the Asian-Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of Japan. The regime is desperate for these loans to

fill up its budgetary shortages and the government's ever-widening budget deficit.

It is the intensity of the economic crisis besetting the regime that has forced it to railroad these measures.

But these can only worsen the crisis. They sacrifice the people's interests. The big foreign and local companies that will be benefiting from these measures will rake in tremendous profits, to the people's detriment. The job security of tens of thousands of workers and employees in the government agencies set to be privatized is also endangered.


THE US-MACAPAGAL-ARROYO REGIME'S MILITARISM AND puppetry have been further highlighted. Guided by its imperialist master, the regime has unleashed its fascist troops to quell the people's resistance and thwart the rapidly strengthening revolutionary movement. Thousands have been victimized by the regime's counterrevolutionary war.

The US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime has revealed a strong militarist streak in its current campaign against the Abu Sayyaf, when it floated the proposal to declare martial law or a state of emergency in Basilan province (as well as nearby islands) where clashes between the AFP and the bandit group have been taking place. Government officials and military leaders have been brazenly encouraging paid informers, private armies and vigilante groups. The brutality of military operations against the bandit group has totally disregarded the masses' interests. This indicates the continued dominance of militarists within the regime and the latter's growing penchant for a military solution.

The regime has been using the masses' popular anger against the Abu Sayyaf bandit group to try to sneak in militarist policies and fascist "special legal measures". Among these are increasing and strengthening the CAGU and proposing the National ID system anew. The regime is pushing these measures not only to eradicate the criminal Abu Sayyaf, but most especially, to counter the people's revolutionary struggle.

The military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf is also being used to encourage and rationalize intervention by the US government. The AFP is closely coordinating with agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the operations being waged in Basilan.

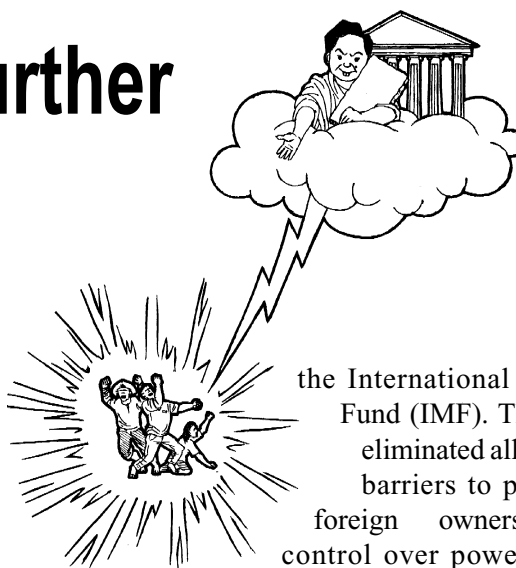
The Macapagal-Arroyo regime has unequivocally advocated the Philippines' neocolonial status in its relations with US imperialism. It actively implements the unequal treaties under this relationship, including the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Visiting Forces ►

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Paving the way for further foreign domination of the economy

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo served as a major instrument in the enactment of the antipeople and pro-imperialist RA 9136 or Power Reform Act. Just to have it passed, she had a special session called on the eve of the closing of the 11th congress. She pushed for the passing of the law despite widespread opposition from various sectors of society. Immediately after its passage by congress, Macapagal-Arroyo signed it into law on June 8.

The new law deregulates electrical services and privatizes the National Power Corporation (Napocor)—the government agency that has primary control over the production, transmission and distribution of electricity. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime supported the law in accordance with the imperialist framework of “globalization” and “free trade” and the dictates of



the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The law has eliminated all remaining barriers to private and foreign ownership and control over power services nationwide.

The US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime has completely ceded the nation's prerogative to have the strategic power industry cater to the people's interests and serve the needs of national industrialization. Even the formal provision in the reactionary constitution prohibiting the sale of strategic industries and public utilities, such as power services, to foreigners has been discarded.

This is a mark of the regime's zealotry in serving the interests of big foreign and local capitalists to the people's detriment. It likewise indicates its desperation to acquire a \$950-million loan from the IMF, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of Japan.

◀ Agreement.

In the name of “cooperation”, thousands of US troops used the Philippines as launching ground for their two successive large-scale military exercises—Balikatan 2001 in May and Carat 2001 this June.

Intense attacks by the AFP and PNP against guerrilla fronts of the New People's Army have resulted in many cases of violations of human rights and humanitarian laws of war, in various parts of the country. Most striking are the large-scale operations being waged and the military abuses being committed by the AFP and PNP in vast areas of Southern Tagalog. This is especially true in Mindoro and nearby areas,

particularly right after the New People's Army released prisoner of war Army Maj. Noel Buan. The same is true in Central Luzon, where the AFP conducted vicious military operations to clear the area for the peace of mind of US troops taking part in the military exercises. In one military operation in Tarlac, the AFP massacred three civilians accused of being Red fighters.

With the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime's self-exposure comes a crucial lesson that must be imparted to the people: The current regime is no different in its puppetry and reactionary character. Solutions to the poverty and oppression long suffered

by the people lie not in the succession of reactionary and puppet regimes. Rather, it lies in basic social change achieved only through revolutionary resistance.

As the current advocate of the interests of imperialism and the local exploiting classes, the present regime bears the main responsibility for the intensified poverty and oppression weighing down on the people. In this regard, we must thoroughly and continually expose and resist the pro-imperialist, reactionary and antipeople character and the policies and measures undertaken by the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime. **AB**

The privatization of Napocor primarily serves big foreign monopoly capitalist and comprador interest to control the country's power industry. Electricite de France, California Electricity International, Power Corporation of Australia and the United Kingdom National Power Plc. are among such interested companies. Only they have the capacity to purchase Napocor. They are in cahoots with the local big comprador bourgeoisie in the power industry, such as the Lopezes, Aboitizes and Gokongweis.

As for the people, all they will get out of this are never-ending hikes in electricity rates and a heavier burden on their shoulders. The deregulation of power services and the privatization of Napocor also serve to further open the economy to the control and domination of foreigners.

With Napocor's privatization, almost 8,000 workers are set to lose their jobs.

To promote the law, Macapagal-Arroyo has boasted that the Power Reform Act will reduce the price of electricity by 30 centavos per kilowatt-hour for the next three years. In reality, in the near future, if not immediately, consumers and the rest of the people will still have to pay this amount in various ways and forms:

Despite the privatization of Napocor, its debts amounting to P900 billion will continue being a burden to the people. At present, the Napocor's value stands \$4.5 billion while its debts amount to \$6.7 billion. Only a portion of Napocor's debts will be covered by its sale. Added to this are almost P480 worth of Napocor's stranded contract costs. Stranded contract costs represent the difference of more than one peso in the price of Napocor-generated power compared with that generated

on the people through the purchased power adjustment (PPA or adjustment in charges for electricity bought from IPPs).

The government will also continue to honor the provisions of other anomalous contracts entered into by Napocor with IPPs from the Ramos era up to the present. This includes the purchase by government of a minimum quantity of electricity at a minimum price from the IPPs. This usually involves 70-90% of the capacity of IPPs. Supposedly, this is meant to guarantee the availability of reserve energy in case another widespread brownout takes place and is in preparation for annual increases in the demand for electricity. The IPPs usually need to avail of only 11-38% of their capacity to service daily power consumption needs. Napocor passes the burden of paying for all this on to the consumers. Should the IPPs no longer produce more than this quantity and should such quantity no longer be used by consumers; should the IPPs suffer from defects, or bog down or be unable to function, they will still be paid for the capacity stipulated in the contract. Thus, all payments end up as guaranteed, pure profits for the IPPs. Napocor will also automatically pay for all additional costs, including those resulting from oil price increases, higher dollar rates and others and will, as usual, pass this on to consumers.

Big foreign and local entities who will be in control of power service in the country will rake in more profits, especially since the law provides for the deregulation of both the production and transmission of electricity. The law gives them the right to dictate charges for these aspects of electrical service.

Despite the privatization of Napocor, its debts reaching P900 billion will continue being a burden to the people. At present, the Napocor's value stands \$4.5 billion while its debts amount to \$6.7 billion. Only a portion of Napocor's debts will be covered by its sale.



The law also gives greater opportunity for big foreign and local companies in the power service industry to form monopolies. It allows

by private independent power producers (IPP) contracted by Napocor. The amount is added to the charge per kilowatt-hour used by consumers.

In addition, the reactionary government will be imposing a new tax, a "universal charge" on all consumers of electricity in order to service the debts not only of Napocor but also of Meralco and other "qualified distribution utilities in the process of implementing the law." This is part of Napocor's P200 billion debt that has supposedly been absorbed by the government. In actuality, the collection by government of a "universal charge" for IPPs is a type of subsidy given to guarantee their profitability. At present, stranded costs are imposed

cross-ownership (ownership by the same IPPs of the various aspects of power service—production, transmission, distribution), as in the case of Meralco. This provision will serve as a means for the Lopezes and Aboitizes to expand and strengthen their monopoly of electric services in general. Other big foreign and local companies that will be coming in will also be able to form monopolies.

The Power Reform Act also provides conditions for cross-ownership subsidies. Thus, whatever subsidies are granted by the government, now or in the future, for the only regulated aspect of electrical service (distribution), will be taken advantage of by the monopoly owners ►

WATER SERVICE FEES TO BE HIKED

The privatization of public utilities will result, not in reduced, but in increased, prices of basic services. This is being proven by the people's experience with Maynilad Water Services, the private concessioner that has been servicing western Metro Manila since the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System was privatized in 1997 on the IMF's orders. Maynilad Water Services is a joint venture of the Lopez-owned Benpres Holdings Corp. and Suez des Lyonnais des Eaux, a French company.

The ink had hardly dried on the Power Reform Act signed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when Malacañang entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation on June 9. The memorandum calls for a P5 hike per cubic meter in water service bills. This is equivalent to a 73% increase in the basic water bill of P6.58. It is the second hike requested by Maynilad this year. In January, it raised its fees by 45 centavos per cubic meter.

Due to fierce criticism from the people, Malacañang temporarily revoked its consent on June 13 allowing Maynilad to abruptly hike its water service fees. The increase will nonetheless be allowed, albeit gradually, supposedly to avoid the people's strong resistance.

Meanwhile, Maynilad employees are strongly opposed to a management plan to slash 10% off the salaries of all workers and supervisors and the cancellation of their vacation pay. Maynilad has threatened to lay off employees opposed to the scheme. **AB**

◀ of both the distribution aspect and the deregulated aspects (production and transmission). In this regard, the benefits of any law providing for the regulation of power distribution will be negated.

Section 28, which was inserted by Sen John Osmeña, is allegedly meant to "demonopolize" electrical services. This is supposed to be accomplished by obligating IPPs to sell their shares at the stock market. In reality, Section 28 aims to facilitate the gobbling up of small IPPs by big monopolies.

The deregulation and privatization of the power industry, as well as the deregulation and privatization of other strategic industries and public utilities such as oil and water, run counter to a genuine program of national industrialization. Public utilities must be put under the control of the democratic state in order for the country to advance along the path of genuine industrialization and economic development.

Tactically, the people must thoroughly oppose the Power Reform Act and the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime's servility to the dictates of imperialism.

Revolutionaries and progressive forces must persevere in order to expose the puppetry of the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime. The people must be mobilized to resist all measures being undertaken by the puppet regime to serve the interests of imperialism and undermine the people's welfare.

Along with this, the people must also fight for the abrogation of the Foreign Investments Act, Mining Act, Retail Trade Law, Oil Deregulation Law, Bank Liberalization Law and other laws and schemes that allow big foreign capitalists to dominate and control the Philippine economy and cause the Filipino people to suffer. **AB**

Hike in petroleum product prices

Oil company giants continue to amass superprofits

The average 42.25-centavo increase in the price per liter of gasoline in the last week of May was met with protests by militant organizations and the people. Pickets were staged on May 25 in front of the offices of Petron, Caltex and Shell by militant organizations to demand the rollback of petroleum prices, declare the latter's onerous effects on their livelihoods and expose the government's puppetry to imperialists. Petron, Caltex and Shell are the three biggest oil companies in the Philippines.

As a result of the latest hike in petroleum costs, prices of commodities such as rice, sugar, cooking oil and others also rose by 5-10%.

To enable themselves to recover from their plummeting incomes, workers and employees demanded wage increases. Drivers also asked for a hike in transport fares.

But instead of addressing the demands of the toiling masses, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has extended further liberties to the oil companies. Before the end of June, gasoline prices are set to increase by 90-96 centavos per liter.

In the second quarter of the year



No less than 30 cases of human rights violations have been recorded since the Macapagal-Arroyo regime took power, until the third week of June. Up to 54 persons have been victimized by strafing, arbitrary arrests and detention, forced disappearances, illegal searches, harassment and coercion.

The number of cases of violations of human rights and the rules of war is expected to rise with Macapagal-Arroyo's directive for an all-out military offensive against the revolutionary movement.

Following are among the documented violations of human rights in the second quarter of the year:

JUNE 19. Demolition of houses in Baryo Mandaragat, Balic-Balic in Smokey Mountain, Tondo by the police and a demolition team

from the National Housing Authority. Residents who resisted were harassed, mauled and jailed. The demolition crew even took away the residents' clothing, money and other belongings.

JUNE 15. Arbitrary accusation by the police that Felix Robrigado, a former UP student, was the killer of Cagayan Governor Aguinaldo. The police alleged that they found Robrigado's student ID in the safe-house used by the Red fighters who punished Aguinaldo. According to Robrigado, his ID was lost as far back as 1999 while he was on an immersion program with the peasants of Cagayan.

JUNE 10. Abandonment by the 22nd IB of the remains of Red fighter Ma. Graciella "Ka Sisa" Miranda, in Sitio Tugawe, Barangay Bololo, Guinobatan, Albay. After having killed the guerrilla in a military offensive, the soldiers merely left her body to decompose at the site where a group of comrades was encircled

by the enemy.

FIRST WEEK OF JUNE.

Imposition of a curfew by troops of the 24th IB on the residents of Barangay Nabuklod, Floridablanca, Pampanga, which is part of the area where the Carat 2001 joint military exercise involving American and AFP troops was being held; sowing terror against an Aeta community of 400 families by soldiers who conducted roving patrols in the community, demanding to know the names and occupation of the residents of each house.

MAY 29. Evacuation of more than 800 families in eight adjacent barangays in Malita, Davao del Sur during pursuit operations against the attackers of Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal island; the 25th IB's zoning of barrios along the shorelines

PROFIT-HU NGR

The oil companies commonly argue that they need to raise the prices of petroleum products to recover losses supposedly incurred the previous months. But the three oil giants have admitted gaining P6.7 billion in 2000. Shell, the biggest among them, amassed P270 million.

In November 2000, the average world price of crude oil was \$30.32 per barrel. In December 2000, the world price fell to \$21.65 per barrel (or a drop of \$8.67). But it was only in January that the three oil giants lowered their prices, by merely 50 centavos, supposedly upon Estrada's intercession.

Despite all this, the oil monopolies still amassed superprofits because apart from lower prices for crude in the international market, Estrada temporarily scrapped

the 3% tariff paid by all petroleum product importers.

IN DEFENSE OF E P OITATION

Oil price hikes were temporarily halted from February till after the May 14 polls to support the new regime and the ruling system's efforts to consolidate after the convulsion the latter went through in January. Now that the new regime has attained a certain degree of consolidation, Macapagal-Arroyo has gone full blast in advancing the oil deregulation law that allows the oil giants to freely raise the prices of their products. They shall squeeze every last drop of blood and sweat from the Filipino people all in the name of raking in humongous profits.

Just as these companies unbridledly raise the prices of their products, causing the people to suffer, so must the people be determined to wage resistance. **AB**

Intensifying militarization in Oriental Mindoro condemned

THE PEOPLE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, ESPECIALLY THE PEASANT MASSES, are currently being terrorized and ravaged by intense militarization under the US-Macapagal-Arroyo regime.

Since the first week of May, three battalions of the Philippine Army (including Scout Rangers) and PNP Special Forces stormed Mindoro and conducted operations, augmenting the enemy forces already deployed in the island. The objective of their military operations is to scour the countryside in pursuit of New People's Army (NPA) forces. But these operations can only wreak havoc on the peasant masses and minorities in the province. In this

regard, the Lucio De Guzman Command (LDGC) of the Oriental Mindoro NPA has issued a statement condemning the intense militarization of the island. The command also called on the people to be firm and raise the level of their struggle in the face of such a challenge.

The LDGC said that "the ruling class is apprehensive due to the small victories won by the revolutionary movement during these past months in the political and military fields, that have resulted in the expansion and deepening of the revolutionary mass base." The operations also comprise the enemy's reaction to tactical offensives launched by the NPA, the movement's punitive actions against Ret. Maj. Cesar Platon and Rep. Marcial Punzalan, Jr., and its implementation of the policy requir- ►

of Malita, Davao del Sur and the imposition of unwarranted restrictions on the movement of people in the area. The soldiers even forced men of the adjoining barrios to line up while two men who wore bonnets to conceal their faces were ordered by the military to pinpoint who among the men attacked Pearl Farm.

MAY 28. Massacre by the 69th IB and Tarlac PNP troops of three civilians in an encounter with the NPA. The civilians were identified as Marcelino dela Cruz, an Aeta pastor of the United Methodist Church; and Remy Rueda Rivera and Adelaida Cabiao, farmers from Sitio Baag, Barangay San Pedro, San Jose, Tarlac. Arrested were Jun-Jun Morales, 18 years old; Gerardo Blanco, 17; and Marcelino's 17-year-old wife Melanie dela Cruz who is four months pregnant. Some of the dead bore bullet wounds in their heads. According to witnesses, the butchers dragged and unceremoniously threw the civilians' remains into the transporting helicopter.

MAY 10. Summary execution in Barangay Binan, Pagsanjan, Laguna of Virgilio Alcantara, brother of Tirso

"Ka Bart" Alcantara, spokesperson of the Melito Glor Command of Southern Tagalog.

MAY 5-6. Widespread zoning, raids, illegal arrests and intimidation perpetrated by the elements of the Philippine Army, Philippine Marines and PNP-SWAT against urban poor communities in Manila, Malabon, Navotas and Caloocan City, where leaders of pro-Estrada forces allegedly resided. Scores of residents were arrested. In Barangay Tangos, Dagat-Dagatan, Caloocan City, four-year-old John Gabriel Damasco drowned when he jumped into a river together with the other men who avoided the raiding police on May 5.

MAY 3. Illegal mass arrests by members of the military and police of young male residents of Barangay 101 and 105 or "Happyland." This is a temporary settlement site for the former occupants of Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila. They were made to strip before being forced to board seven to 10 six by six trucks.

APRIL 30. Murder of reelectionist Councilor Peter Dangiwan of Bayan Muna by armed men at around morn-

ing, in Barangay Tawang, Balbalan, Kalinga. Dangiwan was known as a defender of human rights and an advocate of the people's interests. He opposed the entry of foreign mining corporations and the presence of AFP soldiers. He also pushed for the abolition of the CAFGU in Balbalan.

APRIL 26 – MAY 7. Bombing, imposition of a food blockade, harassment, issuance of threats, looting and destruction of the properties of Banwaons living in Barangay Balit, San Luis, Agusan del Sur. These acts were perpetrated during a large-scale military operation launched by more than 300 troops of the 62nd, 36th, 28th and the 20th IB under Task Force Diamond.

Three civilians died and five were wounded in the bombings. At least four children had to undergo medical treatment because of shock. Forty-five 105 mm howitzer shells, 10 rockets from 90 recoilless rifles and twenty-four 81 mm mortar shells were dropped on the barangay.

A farm was destroyed, three houses were burned and two bombs exploded near a schoolhouse. **AB**

ing access fees
from reactionary
candidates in the

past elections. Immediately after the May 14 polls, Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the intensification of military offensives in guerrilla fronts where such revolutionary measures were undertaken.

The LDGC added that aside from this, the AFP and PNP wanted to recover from their embarrassment over Army Maj. Noel Buan's having been held prisoner for a long time and his orderly release on humanitarian grounds.

Currently targetting Mindoro is Habol Tamaraw or Campaign Plan 01-2001 of the Southern Luzon Command (SOLCOM). It is an extension of Oplan Makabayan in Southern Tagalog. Since May 7, two Army battalions (16th & 74th IB), two companies of Scout Rangers (2nd & 18th SRC) and one company of Special Forces (6th SFC) have augmented the enemy's armed forces in Mindoro. Apart from combat operations, these troops also conduct intelligence operations and perpetrate widespread human rights violations.

The LDGC is highly confident that the people's army and the revolutionary masses will frustrate the current intense military operations in Oriental Mindoro. The command bases its conviction on the fact that the revolutionary forces had thwarted large-scale military and psychological operations from 1987-2000 (Oplan Saliksik I & II, January-March 1988; Oplan Upland Linis, October 1988; PNP Experiment, 1991-92; and other subsequent large-scale military and psychological operations in 1999-2000 spearheaded by Task Force Mindoro and Task Force Seagull).

The LDGC said that the armed forces of the enemy are very much overextended and are running out of resources even as they concentrate on only a few areas. "As they concentrate their military operations on Romanbul (Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao – **AB**), which they might do before the torrential rains of June, it is certain that other towns and areas in the province's countryside will become relatively open for our mass base expansion and for selective military actions by the People's Army." The continuous reduction of the enemy's troop deployment in other areas is a growing disadvantage for them. "Even in areas where they concentrate their military operations, there are instances when we are able to strike at isolated and weak sections of the enemy." On the other hand, the NPA knows the countryside's terrain by heart. Most importantly, the LDGC's confidence is founded on the firm support of the people, "because on our side resides the just and

pro-people basis of the struggle of the oppressed and exploited classes to thoroughly change their situation and that of the entire society."

As the reactionary army desperately tries to destroy the tight links between the masses and the NPA, said the LDGC, it does not hesitate to wreak havoc on the exploited and oppressed people. The fascist troops will ruin their livelihood, sow disorder in their communities and trample on their rights.

In the face of all this, the LDGC called on the people of the province to stand firm on their principles and remain steadfast. The LDGC enjoined the people to stand ready to confront the new directive of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to annihilate the NPA. **AB**

Mayor Platon and Rep. Punzalan were meted just punishment

THE REASONS BEHIND THE METING OUT OF REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE on Mayor Cesar Platon of Tanauan, Batangas on May 7 and Rep. Marcial Punzalan of Quezon on May 12 were cited in consecutive Melito Glor Command (MGC) statements sent to **AB** recently.

According to the MGC, the people rejoiced upon hearing of Platon and Punzalan's punishment because they were the "most rabid counterrevolutionaries within the ruling class who have become symbols of oppression and counterrevolutionary repression." The punitive actions served as a warning to the ruling class that "they could no longer repress and oppress the toiling masses indefinitely without suffering the blow of revolutionary justice."

The following were cited by the MGC as bases for the punishment of Mayor Cesar Platon:

1. Being an active counterrevolutionary and antipeople mayor of Tanauan; persecuting leaders and organizers of the legal democratic mass movement;
2. Coddling and benefiting from, big syndicates involved in carnapping, hijacking of container vans, gunrunning and drugs;
3. Killing, pressuring and terrorizing rivals in land

disputes; grabbing lands in Tanauan; using arms to resolve disputes against personal or political rivals

4. His latest crime was to order the entrapment and arrest of an MGC emissary tasked to meet with him regarding the elections.

According to the MGC, murder cases against Platon never reached the reactionary courts because fear reigned among Platon's victims. "It is only with the people's court of the revolutionary government that those aggrieved by Platon were emboldened to file charges and seek justice," the MGC added.

Meanwhile, following are some of the bases of the punitive action against Rep. Marcial Punzalan, as cited by the MGC:

1. Supporting the counter-revolutionary activities of renegade Leopoldo "Hector" Mabilangan to sow division and intrigue and provoke the widespread demoralization and surrender of guerrilla forces;

2. Taking advantage of and benefiting from, the counter-revolutionary propaganda offensive of Mabilangan under the Ramos regime to deodorize himself before the public and deceive the people, for his own political interest;

3. Funding the Kanayunan Foundation, Inc. (KFI), a sham cooperative movement led by Mabilangan for "counter-insurgency" and pacification, and which sabotaged guerrilla fronts in Quezon and Batangas.

Sometime in 1995, the MGC suspended the carrying out of the death penalty against Punzalan. This was after the latter's silence upon the revolutionary movement's

punishment of Mabilangan, the KFI's neutralization and Punzalan's awareness of the resurgence of the armed movement in Southern Tagalog. The MGC merely confronted Punzalan with his crimes and warned him against continuing them.

But in 1998 and 1999, Punzalan once again joined in chorus with the psy-ops scheme of the reactionary AFP. He attempted to sow intrigue against and destroy the credibility of, Comrade Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal and leaders of the movement in the region by throwing accusations that they had riches stashed away and lived extravagantly. Punzalan had a heyday granting interviews over the radio and in leading dailies.

Because of this, the MGC ended the long reprieve it had granted Punzalan for him to turn his back on counterrevolutionary activities.

The MGC criticized the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's use of these punitive actions to justify the launching of military offensives against the revolutionary movement. The MGC stated that not for a single moment did the AFP and PNP cease launching counterrevolutionary military offensives in Southern Tagalog and the entire country even after Estrada's ouster. This, despite the reopening of peace talks and Macapagal-Arroyo's allegedly having discarded Estrada's total war policy.

The MGC added that "As early as May 3 (a few days before the NPA's punishment of Platon ang Punzalan - **AB**), the MGC had already obtained a copy of a confidential presidential instruction from Macapagal-Arroyo and DND Sec. Angelo Reyes ordering the intensification of military operations to fortify the position of the GRP in its peace negotiations with the NDFP and deprive the NDFP of the opportunity to take advantage of the talks to strengthen itself." **AB**

NDFP ASSAILS SUSPENSION OF PEACE TALKS BY GRP

THE GRP SUSPENDED ITS TALKS with the NDFP on June 14 supposedly in protest of the NPA's punishment of notorious fascist and counterrevolutionary, ex-Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo (*see separate article on p. 10*). Through separate statements by Luis Jalandoni (NDFP panel chair) and Jose Ma. Sison (NDFP chief political consultant), the NDFP strongly assailed the GRP's one-sided and irrational action.

Jalandoni said that the GRP's suspension of the peace talks in behalf of the torturer Aguinaldo was a monumental irony. Aguinaldo was listed by Amnesty International as a top torturer of the Philippines.

Jalandoni stressed that the NDFP's insistence on the implementation of the CARHRIHL is based precisely on the "shameful inability or refusal of the GRP to punish or stop its violators of human rights and international humanitarian law". The GRP, said Jalandoni, has failed or refused to give justice to almost 10,000 victims of the Marcos dictatorship who won their case filed before the US federal court in Hawaii. "In the case of Aguinaldo, the hundreds of victims of his sadistic brutality have waited nearly 30 years for redress of grievance."

Jalandoni said that despite Aguinaldo's civilian status these last years, he continued participating in military ►

NPA PUNISHES COLONEL AGUINALDO

FORMER COL. RODOLFO Aguinaldo was meted revolutionary justice on June 12 right in front of his house in Tuguegarao City. Aguinaldo, who was known as the country’s top torturer and called the “vulture of Cagayan” because of his notoriety as a fascist and counterrevolutionary, was punished by a team from the Fortunato Camus Command (FCC) of the NPA-Cagayan.

In its statement, the FCC said that Aguinaldo’s victims had long been crying out for justice. He was punished for his long list of crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement, including the salvaging, torture and abuse of captured cadres and activists, the rape of wives and female relatives

of suspected Red fighters, the forced evacuation, mass arrest and harassment of supporters of the revolutionary movement. He was also involved in smuggling drugs, logs and people and in electoral terrorism and fraud.

Aguinaldo’s many heinous crimes have been recorded in publications of Amnesty International, Task Force Detainees (TFD), SELDA, in a class suit filed by political prisoners against him and the late Gen. Fabian Ver and other AFP officials in 1985, in another class suit won by SELDA in Hawaii against the Marcos dictatorship, and in many other documents. In a TFD report in 1980, Aguinaldo was described as a “persistent and systematic

torturer” and his “legendary maniacal torture sessions...left many detainees permanently injured”. Said the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Aguinaldo’s killing was “a commentary on the failure of the justice system”. According to CBCP president, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato, the Aquino and Ramos regimes never seriously pursued charges against military officers accused of human rights violations. And this is why it is with the NPA that the people pin their hopes to mete the punishment that the country’s justice system has failed to implement.

Aguinaldo was a member of Philippine Military Academy Class ’72.

In the first years of martial law, he was part of the notorious 5th Constabulary Security Unit. He became PC Provincial Commander of Cagayan in the first part of the 1980s. As provincial commander, he enforced a series of suppressive military campaigns, including “Oplan North Star”. He was also among those who launched a coup d’état against the Aquino regime in 1987 and 1989.

Through massive terrorism and fraud, he became Cagayan governor from 1988 to 1998, and congressman of the province’s third district from 1998 until his defeat in the May 14 elections. His terms as governor and congressman were highlighted by charges of graft filed against him. **AB**

◀ activities. “He strutted around aboard armored personnel carriers, recruited members into the notorious paramilitary CAGFU and used them as his own private army. He continued to perform intelligence work. In addition, he was into big-time drug dealings, protected illegal loggers and was a feared political warlord.”

In this regard, Sison declared in his statement that what the GRP negotiating panel did lays the ground for destroying the entire peace negotiations with the NDFP.

Sison said that “if the GRP finds good cause for scuttling the talks in canonizing the butcher and torturer Aguinaldo as a martyr-saint, why should not the NDFP demand that justice be rendered first to his victims

and to so many more victims of disappearances, tortures, murders, arson and forced evacuation under the various regimes of the GRP before going into peace negotiations?”

If the GRP were to call for a recess of just one day for each of the hundreds of thousands of persons whose rights were violated under the Marcos regime and on to the Macapagal-Arroyo regime, he said, there would be no more peace negotiations until Macapagal-Arroyo’s rule is long over.

Because of this irresponsible action by the GRP, Sison said that “the NDFP is prepared to cease peace negotiations with the GRP until the rule of the Macapagal-Arroyo clique is over.” He stressed that the

socio-economic and political crisis of the ruling system is exceedingly favorable for pursuing the people’s war for national liberation and democracy.

Even as militarists supported the talks’ suspension, the progressive forces and everyone interested in achieving peace assailed the move. The return of the GRP negotiating panel on June 16 was met with protests at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In the face of such criticisms, the GRP recalled its suspension of the talks the very next day. According to Silvestre Bello III, chief of the GRP negotiating panel, they merely “recessed” the talks for two months and will resume it in August. **AB**

International league of peoples' struggle founded

The league of struggle of the peoples of the world against the imperialist ogre is born.

On May 25-27, the first assembly of the International League of Peoples' Struggle (the League) was held in Zutphen, The Netherlands.

The League serves as a broad international anti-imperialist and democratic mass formation. It carries an anti-imperialist and democratic line. It attempts to unite a broad international united front to arouse, organize and mobilize the hundreds of millions of the world's peoples in the struggle for democracy and social liberation against imperialism and reaction.

According to the League's communiqué for the occasion, "this is a historic moment for all progressive forces worldwide, struggling for national independence, democracy and social liberation against imperialism and reaction."

The assembly was attended by 336 workers, farmers and representatives of various national minorities, women, youth, professionals and other sectors. They embodied 232 mass organizations from 40 countries worldwide. During the assembly, the charter as well as resolutions regarding the concerns of the League were discussed and ratified. Members of the coordinating committee and general secretariat of the League were also elected. The international assembly is the highest organ of the League.

Comrade Jose Maria "Joema" Sison, chairperson of the Interna-

tional Initiative Committee (IIC), declared open the assembly. He reported on the preparations made by the IIC for the first general assembly of the League.

While citing the historic origins of the League, Ka Joema recounted that it "is inspired by the anti-imperialist and democratic mass struggles that have arisen since the 20th century." The League also draws strength from anti-imperialist protest actions these past years, such as that in Manila (APEC, 1996), Vancouver (APEC, 1997), Seattle (WTO, 1999), Washington (IMF-World Bank, 2000), Okinawa ("Group of 7", 2000) and Prague (World Bank, 2000).

Ka Joema stressed the significance of the League in these times, when imperialism is wreaking havoc on the people through intensifying poverty, hunger, disorder and injustice. "The League answers the urgent need of the broad masses of the people for the creation of an international rallying force in the struggle for national independence, democracy and social liberation," he said.

The League affirmed the promotion, advocacy and development of anti-imperialist and democratic struggles of the peoples of the world. The League vowed to expose and oppose the destruction wrought by imperialism

and reaction by means of puppet states, multinationals, imperialist agencies such as the IMF, WB and WTO and military alliances such as the NATO and US-Japan Security Council.

In order to effectively coordinate all these struggles, it was noted that the League must remain broad and mass-oriented. It shall not subordinate itself to any political party, religion or state, with all participating organizations enjoying equal rights.

Fifteen workshops were held, wherein the delegates shared experiences, information, ideas and policies. From these were formed the 18 concerns of the League. Also formulated were resolutions regarding these concerns. They expressed the aspirations of the peoples of the world to break free from imperialism, which was pinpointed as the root of the widespread and intense poverty that holds them in chains.

The League shall act to promote unity on issues confronting anti-imperialist and democratic movements. To achieve this, the League

The League was formed by 336 delegates representing 232 organizations from 40 countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burma, Canada, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and USA.



◀ shall strive to unify the peoples of the world in taking concrete steps and to attain solidarity, cooperation and coordination in advancing anti-imperialist and democratic struggles. It shall conduct researches, publishing, conferences, seminars and political and social actions. The League shall seek the help of as many groups or individuals as possible towards the attainment of its aspirations.

The League welcomes the participation of any organization willing to make the League's concerns its own.

The 35 members of the first International Coordinating Committee (ICC) were elected. The

ICC shall serve as the highest organ of the League in between international assemblies. It shall coordinate the correspondence, meetings, cooperation and collective actions of the League's participant organizations. Elected were Ka Crispin Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno, Liza Masa of GABRIELA and Rafael Mariano of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas. Meanwhile, the ICC elected to the International Coordinating Group (ICG) Crispin Beltran of the Philippines as chairperson; Memic Horoz of Turkey, An Leaerts of Belgium and Bernardo Ranferi of Mexico as vice chairpersons; Arman Riazi of Iran as general secretary; Cherry Clemente of

the Philippines and Jim Balikwisha of Congo as deputy secretaries; Danny Claes of Belgium as treasurer; and Irene Fernandez of Malaysia as auditor. The League recognized Ka Jose Maria Sison's role as chairperson of the International Initiative Committee and invited him to serve as the League's adviser.

About 50 mass organizations from the Philippines participated in the assembly. The vigorous and fruitful participation of organizations involved in struggle from the Philippines and other countries contributes to the undying spirit of solidarity and determination of the world's peoples to struggle until imperialism is vanquished. **AB**

The League will stand and fight for the following:

1. The cause of national liberation, democracy and social liberation against imperialism and all reaction;
2. Socio-economic development for oppressed and exploited countries and nations and social equity for all working people;
3. Human rights in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural fields against state violence, national oppression, class exploitation, gender oppression, fascism, casteism, racism and religious bigotry;
4. The cause of just peace and struggles against wars of counterrevolution and aggression and against nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, missiles and other weapons of genocidal and random mass destruction;
5. Promotion of trade union and other democratic rights of the working class, improvement of wage and living conditions against all forms of intensifying exploitation of labor and the destruction of working class organizations in their pursuit of the historic mission of fighting for social liberation;
6. Agrarian reform and rights of peasants, farm workers and fisherfolk against feudal, semifeudal and capitalist exploitation and oppression;
7. The cause of women's liberation and rights against all forms of sexual discrimination, exploitation and violence;
8. Rights of the youth to education and employment;
9. Children's rights against child labor, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation;
10. Rights of indigenous peoples, national minorities,

and nationalities for self-determination and decolonization against discrimination, racism, and national oppression by imperialism and local reaction;

11. The rights of teachers, researchers and other educational personnel and struggle against ideas and researches directed against the people;

12. The right of the people to health care and the rights of health workers;

13. Science and technology for the people and development, environmental protection against plunder and pollution and the destruction of the foundations of human life, the right to safe and healthy food and water and opposition to manipulation of genetic technology for imperialist profit;

14. Arts and culture and free flow of information in the service of the people and the rights of artists, creative writers, journalists and other cultural workers against imperialist and reactionary propaganda and oppression;

15. Justice and indemnification for the victims of illegal arrest and detention (especially political prisoners), violations of due process, torture, extrajudicial executions, disappearances, mass displacement, and other blatant forms of human rights violations.

16. Rights and welfare of homeless persons, refugees and migrant workers displaced by imperialism and local reactionaries;

17. Rights of aged people towards a life in dignity and secured existence;

18. Rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered against discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia.



NEWS OF STRUGGLE

1 SOLDIER DEAD, 3 WOUNDED IN COM- POSTELA VALLEY AMBUSH

A soldier from the 60th IB of the Philippine Army was killed in an ambush launched by Red fighters in Barangay Casoon, Monkayo, Compostela Valley on June 20. Two other soldiers and a CAFGU element were wounded. The enemy forces were on combat patrol when they were ambushed.

PNP FORCES AMBUSHED IN MINDORO

Two policemen were killed while one was seriously wounded in an ambush by the NPA on June 13 in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro. The policemen were part of the 408th Provincial Mobile Group which is based in Mamburao and active in counterrevolutionary operations.

Prior to this, another policeman was killed and two others were wounded in an NPA ambush on May 13 in Calintaan town of the same province.

US , GRP NAVY MEN DISARMED BY THE NPA

Red fighters disarmed five elements of the US Navy and four Philippine Navy soldiers on June 5 at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo in Barangay Sapang Bato, Angeles City, Pampanga. Two M16 rifles and one cal .45 pistol were confiscated by the NPA.

The soldiers were trekking down Mt. Pinatubo when Red fighters blocked their way. An American official, Lt. JG (Junior Grade) Scott Allan Washburn, scampered and hid himself upon hearing warning shots coming from the guerrillas. He wandered along the slopes of Pinatubo for two days before he was able to regroup.

The US and Philippine Navy elements were all participants in CARAT (Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training) 2001, one of the joint military exercises conducted by the US and Philippine armed forces this year under the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). The exercises began on June 1 in Clark Field, Pampanga.

AFP TROOPS AMBUSHED IN MT. PROVINCE

Four souldiers from the 22nd Special Forces Coy were killed and one was wounded in an ambush by New People's Army fighters under the Leonardo Pacsi Command. The ambush was launched at 7:30 in the morning on June 13 in Lake Danum along the border of Sagada and Besao in Mountain Province.

POLICEMEN ON PATROL AMBUSHED IN ALBAY

Two policemen were killed and one was wounded in an ambush by Red fighters under the Santos Binamera Command (SBC) in Barangay Pawa, Manito, Albay on May 30. The guerrillas confiscated the weapons and other military equipment of the enemy. The policemen were aboard their patrol car when ambushed.

In a statement on June 7, the SBC said that the ambushcade against the PNP elements formed part of the NPA's continuing intensification of tactical offensives in the Bicol region.

2 CAFGU ELEMENTS KILLED IN SNIPING OPERATION IN NEGROS

Two CAFGU elements were killed when Red fighters sniped their detachment in Barangay Sikatuna, Isabela, Negros Occidental. The sniping operation was conducted at around 7 p.m. on June 21. The NPA took advantage of the CAFGU

elements' preoccupation with a television drama they were watching.

PNP INFORMER PUNISHED IN CEBU

The Vicente Padayao Command (VPC) of NPA-Cebu punished Valentin Berenguel in Tabuelan town of the same province on June 6. The VPC immediately issued a statement after meting out the death penalty on Berenguel. According to the VPC, Berenguel was punished because he had long been working for the PNP in its counterrevolutionary campaigns.

The VPC said that Berenguel was proven to be a paid PNP spy against the revolutionary forces. He was active in enticing Red fighters and members of revolutionary mass organizations to surrender. Many comrades had also been arrested or killed because of Berenguel.

PLUNDER WATCH ALLIANCE FORMED

Organizations and individuals involved in Edsa II formed Plunder Watch on May 29. Plunder Watch will monitor the forthcoming trial of ousted president Joseph Estrada and his cohorts.

In its statement of unity, Plunder Watch pledged to oppose any attempt by pro-Estrada forces and opportunistic politicians to reverse the gains of People Power II. Plunder Watch said that it is a continuing movement for truth and justice. It aims to help ensure a just and swift trial on the plunder cases against Estrada and his henchmen.

Representatives of Kadamay, Kairos Philippines, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Bayan Muna, NCCP, August Twenty One Movement, League of Concerned Professionals and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines attended the founding of Plunder Watch.



ATTORNEY CAPULONG ELECTED TO INTERNATIONAL COURT

NDFP legal consultant Atty. Romeo Capulong was elected as one of 27 *ad litem* or alternate judges in the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY). The ICTY was formed by the United Nations in 1993 to try the persons responsible for the grave violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated during the recent war in Yugoslavia. The trials will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Capulong garnered the third highest votes (141 out of 171) among those nominated as *ad litem* judges of the ICTY. Thus, he is third in line among those who could be called upon as replacement for any of the 14 permanent judges of the court who may be unable to perform his duty.

Capulong is also a senior lawyer of the Public Interest Law Center, an association of attorneys advocating and defending the interests of the oppressed for free. He was also one of the private prosecutors in the unfinished impeachment trial and continues in this capacity in the current trial of former president Estrada and his co-conspirators.

Capulong's election to the ICTY is a big help to his role as NDFP legal consultant, especially with regard to monitoring the implementation of CARHRIHL.

PROTESTS MARK EU SUMMIT

Large protest actions confronted and assailed the 2001 European Union (EU) Summit held from June 14-16 in Gothenburg, Sweden. The protest actions were not unlike other

large-scale mass actions against the World Trade Organization, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation and other organizations advancing imperialist "globalization".

More than 20,000 demonstrators stormed and trooped to Gothenburg and launched rallies during the summit. On June 15, policemen attacked, fired at and truncheoned a group of demonstrators. About 500-600 were arrested and hun-

dreds of others were injured in the dispersal. Three of the 70 injured who were hospitalized had bullet wounds, with one of them in critical condition.

The EU Summit was attended by representatives of the 15 leading imperialist countries of the European Union. Highlighting its agenda was EU expansion in Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean.

PEASANTS RESIST MILITARIZATION, DEMAND AGRARIAN REFORM

Hundreds of peasants led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and the Pambansang Samahan ng mga Mamamalakaya (PAMALAKAYA) began a three-day vigil at the Mendiola bridge on June 6. They planned a series of mass actions in time for the 13th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law or CARL. They said that until now, peasants were being victimized by ceaseless military operations and the absence of genuine land reform.

The Kalipunan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka sa Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK), which launched its own "Dalawang Linggo ng Protesta Laban sa Militarisasyon at Para sa Repormang Agraryo" starting May 28, also participated in the vigil.

The peasants called on the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to stop military operations, which have forced them to flee their farms in Mindoro and adjacent provinces; not to embroil civilians and farmers in the all-out war being launched in Mindanao; address the issue of human rights violations by the military and police; implement genuine agrarian reform and put a stop to widespread land-use conversion.

In the first week of June, the farmers also petitioned for the ouster of AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Defense Sec. Angelo Reyes because of their leading responsibility in militarizing the countryside. The farmers warned the Macapagal-Arroyo regime that they would push for the latter's ouster just like Estrada, if it does not hearken to the people's grievances.

In a related development, 500 farmers belonging to Task Force Mapalad of Bukidnon picketed in front of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Quezon City on May 29. They demanded the ouster of DAR Sec. Hernani Braganza. The pickets said that Braganza has done nothing to fully address the peasants' demands for genuine agrarian reform.